

## Register result

The following regulation has been issued by **Food & Drug Administration** on impact-resistant eyeglasses. Beginning Oct. 6, FDA is requiring that all lenses be impact-resistant unless a doctor or optometrist believes those lenses are not satisfactory for particular patients. FDA received comments from 5 consumers, one consumer organization & one industry representative. Only lenses made before Jan. 31, 1972 are affected by the regulation. Glasses made since then have been impact-resistant. Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 6, page 46099; March 21, page 12809. **CONSUMER REGISTER**: May 1.

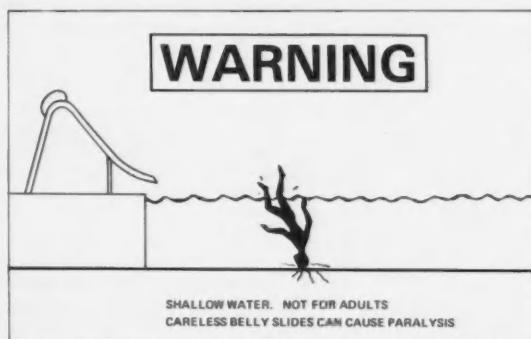
## Swimming pool slides

Oct. 15 is deadline for comments on **Consumer Product Safety Commission's** (CPSC) proposed mandatory safety standard for the manufacture & construction of swimming pool slides.

Although the deadline for commenting on this proposal is today, CPSC will consider, to the extent possible, all comments received after today.

Purpose of the standard is to reduce injuries involving (1) sliders—often adults—going down steep slides head first & hitting their heads on the bottom of the pool; (2) leg fractures resulting from feet first entry; (3) impacts with other persons in the pool & (4) falls off the slide ladder.

In addition to specifications for construction & installation of slides, CPSC is proposing that the slides carry warning labels & show potential for injury if the warnings are ignored, for example:



Copies of the proposed standards are available from CPSC. Call 888-492-2937 (Maryland residents call 800-638-2666).

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 15, page 42562. **CONSUMER REGISTER**: March 1, 1975; July 15, 1974. Send comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

## Closing Costs

Oct. 15 is deadline for comments on the proposal of the **Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System** (The Fed) to amend a section of the Fed's regulations (Regulation Z), which are based on the 1974 Truth-In-Lending Act amendments. Proposed amendment to the regulations would require a statement of closing costs in real estate transactions.

Although the deadline for comment on this proposal is today, most Federal agencies will consider, to the extent possible, all comments received within a reasonable time after the deadline.

The Fed's proposed regulation amendment would apply only to credit transactions where lender retains or acquires an interest in real property—land, with or without a house on it—that is used as collateral for a loan. Proposed regulation amendment

would not apply to closing costs or loans covered by the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA). Those loans apply only to Federal related loans: **Federal Housing Administration** (FHA) backed mortgage or a **Veterans Administration** (VA) backed mortgage [**CONSUMER NEWS & CONSUMER REGISTER**: Aug. 1].

Under the proposal, closing costs in connection with credit sales transactions—where the seller, such as a home improvements dealer, extends credit directly to the consumer—must be disclosed before consumers make any down payments. In other transactions—where the loan is made by a bank or some other institution other than the seller—disclosure would be required at the time the bank commits itself to make the loan.

Unlike RESPA, where a **Uniform Disclosure/Settlement Statement** must be used, the Fed is not specifying a form to be used as long as it includes the total amount of closing costs & a description of each cost—clearly identified as "closing costs."

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 22, page 43516.

## X-rays

**Food & Drug Administration** (FDA) recommends routine use of special shields to prevent unnecessary radiation exposure to the reproductive organs of persons having x-ray examinations. Nov. 17 is deadline for comments on FDA's proposed guidelines for the use of doctors & other professionals on how & when the protective shields should be used, especially for children & for men & women of reproductive age.

These shields are placed over the gonads (testicles & ovaries) during certain x-ray examinations because studies indicate that exposure to x-rays may adversely affect future generations.

FDA says shields are seldom used, even though there is very little opposition to their use. FDS wants patients, as well as doctors, to know about the recommendation & guidelines.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 16, page 42749. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Mail solicitations

**Postal Service** (PS) has reinstated its regulation concerning certain mail that is disguised as a bill but is really a solicitation for business.

Effective immediately, any "otherwise mailable" material that consumers could reasonably consider to be a bill or an invoice but is actually a solicitation for an order may not be mailed unless the words "This Is Not a Bill" is prominently printed on the front of the solicitation. The disclaimer does not have to be on the envelope. In addition, each solicitation must carry the following disclaimer: "This is a solicitation. You are under no obligation to pay unless you accept this offer."

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 16, page 42741.

## Airport noise (continued)

**Federal Aviation Administration** (FAA) has been holding public hearings around the country to obtain consumer comments. (Continued next page)

ments on airport noise. Before adopting a final airport noise policy, FAA will consider statements presented at the hearings as well as all written comments mailed to Washington headquarters [CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 1].

Because all hearings have been previously announced in the localities in which they will be held, CONSUMER REGISTER is not listing them here. Consumers & others may still comment until Jan. 1, 1976, on FAA's proposals by writing to Associate Administrator for Policy Development & Review, Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C. 20591.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 19, page 43266; July 9, page 28844.

## Plastic plumbing fixtures

Nov. 6, is deadline for comments on **Housing & Urban Development Dept's** (HUD) proposed interim fire resistance standards for polymeric (plastic) bathtub & shower fixtures built under HUD mortgage insurance & low-rent public housing programs.

In May 1973, **Federal Trade Commission** (FTC) said it believed that certain plastic products used in construction & furnishings of buildings have increased the intensity & severity of fires—or made the job of putting out fires more difficult. As a result, HUD decided to study the fire hazards associated with all plastics used in buildings. HUD set up a special task force of specialists, who were not directly associated with industry, to review & evaluate plastic products. This standard for bathtub & shower fixtures is part of a series of proposed standards, but plastic tub & shower fixtures are not singled out as being more hazardous than other plastic products.

The interim report for manufacturers & contractors sets out installation & fire resistance requirements & instructions for testing the materials.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 22, page 43539. Send comments to Rules Docket Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Housing & Urban Development Dept., Washington, DC 20410.

## Protein supplements

Nov. 7 is deadline for comments on **Federal Trade Commission's** (FTC) proposal to regulate the advertising & labeling of protein supplements.

Most protein supplements are powdered soy protein with additives that are sometimes fortified with various minerals & vitamins; egg & or milk protein powder are also used. These supplements usually are made in powder & tablet form. They are sold mainly in health food stores, drug stores & chain retail stores & are usually advertised in health magazines.

FTC says it has reason to believe that some protein supplement companies deceptively claim that a protein supplement:

- May be used by all people, including young children.
- Gives quick energy.
- Produces, by itself, health or vigor.
- Improves athletic performance.
- Delays aging.
- Aids weight loss.

The proposal, if adopted, would ban or limit such claims.

FTC says protein deficiency is not a common problem for Americans. In fact, according to a **Health, Education & Welfare Dept.** (HEW) survey, even persons at or below the poverty level eat over twice as much protein as they need. In addition, protein supplements cost much more than other protein sources such as eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, meat, fish & poultry.

Medical experts agree that high protein diets can be dangerous to infants by overburdening the infant's digestive & excretory system—causing kidney failure, coma & even death. Similar health problems may also result from the use of concentrated protein supplements for children from one to 3 years of age & persons with liver or kidney disease. High protein intake strains the liver & kidneys.

FTC would also require that protein supplements be labeled with warnings saying these supplements should not be used in the food of infants or people with chronic or acute liver or kidney disease. The labels would have to say that most Americans do not need extra protein beyond what they get in their regular diets.

FTC is interested in finding out if consumers really know enough about the health & nutrition effects of protein supplements to evaluate advertising & labeling claims & to shop wisely.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 5, page 41144. Send comments to Special Assistant for Rulemaking, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

## Vocational schools (continued)

Nov. 21 is new deadline for comments on **Federal Trade Commission's** (FTC) proposed trade regulation rule on vocational schools. CONSUMER REGISTER has summarized the proposal twice—on Oct. 15, 1974 & June 15, 1975. In addition, FTC is resuming public hearings on vocational schools in the following cities: (Hearings have already been held in Boston, New York & Washington.)

Dec. 1  
Room 15018, Federal Bldg.  
450 Golden Gate Ave.  
San Francisco, CA

(Any consumer wishing to speak should inform Seela Lewis at the above address by Nov. 21.)

Dec. 15  
Room 13209, Federal Bldg.  
1100 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA

(Any consumer wishing to speak should inform Howard Manning at the above address by Nov. 21.)

Jan. 12, 1976  
Room 347 A-B, Federal Bldg.  
230 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL

Attention: John C. Kluczynski

(Any consumer wishing to speak should inform Richard J. Toman, Federal Trade Commission, 55 E. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60603, by Dec. 30.)

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 29, page 44582. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 15; Oct. 15, 1974. Send comments to William D. Dixon, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

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## For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) \_\_\_\_\_

by (name of agency) \_\_\_\_\_

published in *Federal Register* on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ on (page) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Rate Register

### Trains

- Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corp.) & Canadian National Railways are permitting rail travelers from either Canada or the U.S. to buy tickets on both rail lines in a single transaction. Amtrak says this agreement will make train travel & tourism easier between the U.S. & Canada, particularly for the Bicentennial & Olympic activities (in Canada) that are planned for 1976. Each rail line has access to the other company's computerized reservation system.

- Beginning Nov. 1, Amtrak will offer foreign visitors to this country a new USARAIL Pass, which will be good for unlimited coach travel anywhere on the Amtrak rail passenger system. Purpose is to make travel during the Bicentennial years more economical for foreign visitors.

Passes will be sold only overseas through Amtrak-appointed agents & will be restricted to foreign citizens who come into this country on tourist, student or business visas. Citizens of the U.S., Mexico & Canada may not use the passes.

When the foreign travelers arrive in this country, they will have to obtain their actual tickets at an Amtrak Ticket office, & when they get on the trains, they must show their USARAIL Passes & passports, plus a ticket for each ride.

There are no seasonal or other restrictions on use of the pass.

Amtrak is offering 3 types of passes, which are not transferable: \$150 for 14 days, \$200 for 21 days & \$250 for 30 days. Here is a comparison of the USARAIL Pass & regular coach fare:

(Continued next page)

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## Rate Register

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Amtrak's regular round trip coach fare between Los Angeles & New York is \$304; the 14-day pass is only \$150.

The USARAIL Pass will replace Amtrak's current Amerail fares, which will be discontinued after Dec. 31. Amerail fares offer visitors from abroad 25% discounts on basic one-way passage tickets.

## Mail

• On Oct. 2, Postal Service (PS) set Dec. 28 as the date for new temporary mail rates to that effect [RATE REGISTER: Oct. 1].

## Planes

• On Sept. 15, Pan American Airlines (PanAm) asked Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to allow it to carry passengers between New York & San Francisco for \$199 round trip. PanAm flies that route but is not now allowed to carry domestic passengers.

• On Sept. 19, Council on Wage & Price Stability (CWPS) & Transportation Dept. (DOT) urged Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to permit National Airlines (along with American, Continental, Delta & Eastern Airlines on routes in which they compete with National) to continue to offer "no frill" services. These fares, which eliminate extras, such as meals & alcoholic beverages, have been in effect since April 14, & except for the summer months, are scheduled to continue until Dec. 16.

• On Sept. 30, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) rejected the requests of Trans World Airlines, Western Airlines, Eastern Airlines & Continental Airlines for passenger fare increases ranging from 3½% to 5%. Those increases would have become effective Oct. 1 if CAB had not acted.

• On Sept. 30, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) made permanent the 4% general increase for domestic airlines fares that was scheduled to expire Jan. 15, 1976 [RATE REGISTER: July 15 & Aug. 15].

• On Oct. 1, International Air Transport Association (IATA) asked for a 3% increase on all international air routes, effective Dec. 1. Higher fuel costs were given as the reason for the request.



